

What is Claimed is:

1. A calling party announcement apparatus for a telephone system which provides caller identification signals to subscriber's telephone sets connected to said telephone system, said system having an exchange switch, said apparatus comprising:

detecting means, connected to the exchange switch, for detecting the caller's identification signal sent by the switch;

central processing means, connected to said detecting means, for processing said identification signal to output a signal corresponding to the identity of the caller;

announcing means, connected to said central processing means, for transforming the identity signal provided by said central processing means to produce an audible signal that announces the caller's identity.

2. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

isolation means, interconnected with said central processing means, for isolating said telephone set from said switch during the time following the engagement of said telephone, wherein said switch is unaware that said telephone set has been answered and continues to return a ringback indicating to the calling party.

3. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 2 further comprising:

reconnection means, interconnected with said central processing means, for reconnecting said telephone set to said switch after the called party has decided to accept said incoming call.

4. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

loop current means, connected to said isolation means and connected to said announcing means, for producing and audible signal that announces the caller's identity over said telephone set.

5 5. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 1 further comprises speech synthesizing means for providing the caller's telephone number in synthesized human speech.

10 6. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 1 further comprising speech synthesizing means for providing the caller's state of origin name in synthesized human speech.

15 7. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 6 wherein said central processing means further comprises memory storage for providing a signal to said announcement means that corresponds to the name of the calling party.

20 8. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said memory storage means further comprises address input means for adding, deleting, and editing names and corresponding telephone numbers.

9. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said memory storage means further comprises multiple association means for associating a single name with multiple corresponding telephone numbers.

20 10. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said announcement means provides the caller's name in synthesized human speech.

11. The method of announcing a calling party's identity to the called party

comprising:

detecting the caller's line identification signal;

processing the signal detected corresponding to the caller's line identification signal to a signal corresponding to the identity of the caller;

announcing the caller's identity to the called party in synthesized human speech.

12. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus are components of said *telephone set* telephone set.

13. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus are components of a cordless telephone set.

14. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus are components of a computer modem.

15. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus are components of a computer-telephony interface board.

16. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus are components of a telephone answering device.

17. The calling party announcement apparatus of claim 7 wherein said apparatus is interconnected to a plurality of telephone sets served by the same telephone line *[of said switch.]*

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